



Draft Minutes from the February 10, 1996 Meeting

CHAIR

John S. Applegate

MEMBERS

James C. Bierer
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pamela Dunn
Constance Fox, M.D.
Guy C. Guckenberger
Darryl D. Huff
Gloria J. McKinley
Jerry Monahan
Thomas B. Rentschler
Robert G. Tabor
Warren E. Strunk
Dr. Thomas E. Wagner
Dr. Gene E. Willeke

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L. French Bell
J. Phillip Hamric
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell

The Fernald Citizens Task Force met from 8:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on February 10, 1996, at the Joint Information Center, 6025 Dixie Highway, Fairfield, Ohio. The meeting was advertised in local papers and open to the public. Time was reserved for public input.

Members Present:

John Applegate
French Bell
Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Guy Guckenberger
J. Phillip Hamric
Darryl Huff
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Jerry Monahan
Thomas Rentschler
Warren Strunk
Robert Tabor
Thomas Wagner

Members Absent:

Constance Fox
Gene Willeke

Designated Federal Official Present:

Ken Morgan
Gary Stegner

Task Force Staff Present:

Douglas Sarno
Sue Walpole

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair John Applegate called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for approval of the December 7, 1995 draft meeting minutes. Applegate recognized a previous correction requested by Lisa Crawford and the minutes were approved.

2. Announcements and New Business

Applegate referred to a table of Task Force budgets from 1994 through 1997 that had been previously distributed and asked for comments. Lisa Crawford asked for a more complete break down of the first category of costs and asked if DOE or other parties were applying costs to the Task Force account. Doug Sarno explained that the category included costs for Phoenix Environmental and FERMCO employees that had billed time directly to Task Force activities, and that no other parties were billing against the Task Force account. The budget had been prepared by FERMCO and it used standard categories for expense that included topics that were not necessarily relevant to the Task Force.

3. Upcoming Cincinnati Enquirer Story

Applegate asked Jack Craig to provide an update on some expected news coverage in the Cincinnati Enquirer. Craig explained that he had met with an investigative reporter, Mike Gallagher, on four occasions since January 11. Mr. Gallagher has alleged wrongdoing on the part of FERMCO and DOE. He intends to publish an article detailing alleged false performance reporting to DOE, fraudulent travel costs, and improper payments to employees during the most recent reduction in force. Don Ofte said that he was meeting with editors of the paper on Monday, February 12, with company lawyers to make it clear that Mr. Gallagher has made many false accusations.

Crawford, Graham Mitchell, and Applegate all indicated that they had not been interviewed by Mr. Gallagher for this story.

Phil Hamric said that he has focussed DOE efforts on cleanup rather than auditing travel costs and similar items. They have worked hard to save millions of dollars by accelerating schedules, reducing overhead, and efficient cost management.

Tom Rentschler remarked that Secretary O'Leary's performance and behavior and her wasteful ways reflect poorly on everyone involved, and was especially difficult for people who were volunteering their time. Pam Dunn indicated that Secretary O'Leary's trip to Africa resulted in technology that helps our country. Crawford stated that O'Leary is a proponent of cleanup and deserves support.

4. Committee Reports

Dunn reported on the Environmental Monitoring Committee stating that the committee has met once and focussed on gathering information and deciding priorities. Monitoring plans for phase one/area one will be completed in March and is a priority for the committee.

Jim Bierer reported on the Natural Resources Committee. The committee has met once and discussed the 1986 law suit and subsequent formation of natural resource trustees to monitor and make natural resources decisions. The committee will be developing principles to provide to the trustees in developing an integrated plan for natural resource replacement and restoration with cleanup on site.

Tom Wagner reported on the Transportation Committee. All material shipped off-site or brought on-site will be within the scope of the committee. The committee will look at traffic routes and volumes on area roads, train loading, and the train route. The committee wants to ensure that the general public understands what is going on with transportation and is informed about routes, schedules, and accident response.

Sarno reported on the Waste Management Committee in Gene Willeke's absence. The committee will be looking at the recycling of materials on-site and any potential treatment options that are identified. The on-site disposal facility will also be a topic following today's meeting.

5. Community Reuse Organization

Applegate announced that DOE has appointed Maria Kreppel of the University of Cincinnati to convene the Community Reuse Organization. A public meeting will be held in March. Applegate met with her and discussed the similarities of the CRO and the Task Force and expressed the desire to avoid any overlap of responsibility. Applegate will stay in contact with the process.

It was questioned why the group was needed. Gary Stegner stated that a CRO is not a requirement, but DOE felt it was important for the community and the issues that would be faced at the site. Darryl Huff said the CRO is a good way for merchants to be involved and be heard in decisions.

6. Disposal Facility Design

Sarno introduced the issue of on-site disposal facility design. The design for the facility is at the 30% stage. The Task Force needs to consider specific comments on the 30% design as well as input to the final design. Previous recommendations of the Task Force were referenced with regard to the sufficiency of the design to this point in meeting those recommendations. Sarno noted that the design of the cap and liner system is identical to what the Task Force evaluated last year in making its recommendations and there did not appear to be any inconsistencies with the design. Nancy Weatherup of FERMCO directs the effort and was present for the discussion.

Dunn asked about the ability to put an underground monitoring system beneath the facility. Weatherup said she is looking into a detection system, but the long-term viability of the detectors is unknown, due to lack of time that detection systems have been available. The designed leachate detection and collection system will be built between the man-made liner and the clay liner so that even detected leaks will have to pass through the clay liner. Each cell will have a manhole to monitor leachate levels and to detect any leak. The two leachate detection systems are independent so you can tell where leaks occur.

Several questions were asked regarding the advanced wastewater treatment system. Weatherup said that the system was sufficient to handle the leachate, though holding ponds would be used to equalize flow and allow for sedimentation. Leachate would be piped from the disposal facility directly to the AWWT or the ponds.

Questions were asked regarding the long-term stability of the materials and earthquake protection. Modeling for protection is done based on natural materials only, and the facility is subdivided into 8 cells so that any problems can be localized. The majority of problems that occur with piping and liners occur during construction. The pipes and liners are designed to last a minimum of 200 years without degradation, and earthquakes were taken into account.

A question was raised regarding settling of the cap. Modeling was used to determine what ratio was needed for equal settlement. The clay, sand, and rock are firmly packed when put in place to deter settlement. The majority of settlement occurs in the first two years while construction crews will still be on-site to monitor and fix initial settlement. Material will be subject to a maximum size and 6" layers of soil will cover each layer of irregularly shaped debris.

It was reported that even if an individual was fully exposed to the materials in the facility, the excess cancer risk would only be one in one million. It was then questioned why so much money was being spent. The answer was to protect the groundwater.

Once all questions were addressed, Applegate asked if the Task Force wanted to officially comment on the 30% design. There was consensus agreement that the design appeared consistent with Task Force recommendations.

Discussion then turned to the location of the facility and the planned buffer zone. It was noted that the Task Force has recommended a natural vegetation deterrent within the buffer zone to prevent access. Tom Wagner questioned whether the Task Force wanted to dictate a specific recommendation regarding the buffer zone vegetation or simply to provide general parameters. It was decided that the committees should do more detailed research to determine what specific recommendations should be made regarding the vegetation and monitoring within the buffer zone with the goal of presenting a recommendation at the June meeting.

It was decided that a letter should be sent to DOE indicating consistency of the 30% design with Task Force recommendations. The purpose of the letter was to provide DOE with timely support and feedback, but not a formal recommendation. The letter should indicate support for the multiple cell design, support for the separate and independent leachate detection and collection systems, and require perpetual collection and management of leachate.

7. Opportunity for Public Input

Peggy Collins, League of Women Voters and Planning Commissioner for the City of Fairfield, recommended contacting local planning directors to get ideas on how to define the buffer zone. Applegate said this was an excellent idea and asked if she would be interested in sitting on a committee. She agreed to participate on the Waste Management Committee.

8. Closing

Applegate indicated the desire to send a letter to Don Ofte congratulating him on retirement and thanking him for the support he has shown the Task Force. Support was given by the Task Force.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the
February 10, 1996 meeting of the Fernald Citizens Task Force.

John S. Applegate, Chair
Fernald Citizens Task Force

Date

Gary Stegner
Deputy Designated Federal Official

Date